

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ZANZIB 00029 180624Z
ACTION CU-05

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TAGS: SCUL, TZ
SUBJECT: US EXHIBIT ON ZANZIBAR OR THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGING

1. THE US CONSULATE ON ZANZIBAR SPONSORED AN AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION, WITH RELATED EVENTS, FEBRUARY 9, 10, AND 11TH. THE PROGRAM, THE FIRST SUCH AMERICAN EVENT IN ZANZIBAR FOR AT LEAST THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, TOOK PLACE AT THE ZANZIBAR'S PEOPLE'S CLUB - A ZANZIBAR GOVERNMENT-RUN INSTITUTION. THE RUSSIANS USE THE PEOPLE'S CLUB ABOUT ONCE A YEAR FOR BOOK EXHIBITIONS. THIS POST FELT THAT IF THE USSR COULD USE THE PEOPLE'S CLUB, THE US SHOULD BE ABLE TO. THUS PERMISSION WAS SOUGHT TO HOLD AN EXHIBIT THERE. PERMISSION WAS READILY GRANTED AND THE ZANZIBAR GOVERNMENT WAS MOST COOPERATIVE IN EXTENDING THE USE OF THE CLUB'S FACILITIES, ARRANGING FOR WATCHMEN, LOANING CHAIRS, PROVIDING SOUND EQUIPMENT, ETC.

2. THE PROGRAM INCLUDED DR. EDWIN REDKEY, A VISITING AMERICAN LECTURER WHO IS A SPECIALIST IN AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY. REDKEY SPOKE FOR A FEW MINUTES AT THE OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION, GAVE A LECTURE AT THE PEOPLE'S CLUB THE NEXT NIGHT, AND SPOKE TO THE STUDENT BODY OF THE TEACHER'S COLLEGE. THE POST HAD ALSO

REQUESTED AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN REDKEY AND OFFICIALS
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PAGE 02 ZANZIB 00029 180624Z

OF THE MINISTRY OF SPORTS AND CULTURE AND/OR THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, BROADCASTING, AND TELEVISION. ACCORDING TO REPORTS RECEIVED FROM A ZANZIBAR OFFICIAL INVOLVED, THESE REQUESTS CAUSED GREAT CONSTERNATION AND OCCASIONED SEVERAL MEETINGS AMONG OFFICIALS OF THE ZANZIBAR DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE TWO MINISTRIES. THE ZANZIBARIS THOUGHT THERE HAD BEEN A REQUEST FOR A DEBATE BETWEEN REDKEY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,

TO BE RECORDED AND TELEVISED. THE OFFICIALS FELT THEY WERE NOT PREPARED FOR SUCH A QTE CONFRONTATION UNQTE AND THAT THK QTE HIGH-POWERED ARGUMENTS UNQTE OF REDKEY WOULD PUT THEM AT A DISADVANTAGE SINCE THEY DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO DO THE QTE HOMEWORK UNQTE NECESSARY TO BE ABLE TO REFUTE HIS POINTS. IN SPITE OF THIS MISUNDERSTANDING AND APPREHENSION ABOUT US MOTIVES, THE REQUEST FOR REDKEY TO SPEAK TO STUDENTS AT NKRUMAH TEACHER'S COLLEGE WAS APPROVED. IN THE EVENT, REDKEY SPOKE TO THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY AT NKRUMAH - 300 STUDENTS. AND A COURTESY CALL ON THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF SPORTS AND CULTURE BECAME AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH SEVERAL OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY.

3. REDKEY WAS ZANZIBAR'S FIRST AMERICAN LECTURER, FOR AT LEAST THE LAST FEW YEARS. HE WAS EXCELLENT, ALLAYING ZANZIBAR APPREHENSIONS ABOUT HIS ROLE AND ELICITING FAVORABLE COMMENTS ABOUT HIS TALKS. HE HAS EASED THE WAY FOR FUTURE AMERICAN LECTURERS, WHOSE PROGRAMMING WILL BE EASIER AND MET WITH LESS SUSPICION.

4. COMMENT: THE CONSULATE'S FIRST ATTEMPT AT THIS SORT OF CULTURAL MEDIA EVENT WAS A SUCCESS. UNFORTUNATELY, THE CCM CENTRAL COMMITTEE WAS MEETING IN DAR ES SALAAM AT THE SAME TIME, SO SOME OF THE ZANZIBAR MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS WHO MIGHT HAVE ATTENDED, WERE UNABLE TO. EVEN SO, HOWEVER, ZANZIBARI TURNOUT WAS GOOD. A FAIR NUMBER OF THE TOP ZANZFOAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ZANZIB 00029 180624Z

OFFICIALS WHO HAD REMAIED ON ZANZIBAR CAME TO THE OPENING RECEPTION; 35 PERSONS (A LARGE NUMBER OF WHOM WERE ZANZIBARIS) ATTENDED THE LECTURE AND THERE WERE ALWAYS AT LEAST A FEW PEOPLE IN THE HALL AT ANY ONE TIME (MANY MORE SO AT NIGHT, WHEN FILMS WE2E SHOWN).

5. THIS EVENT DEMONSTRATED THE CHANGE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS IN ZANZIBAR-US RELATIONS. THE FACT THAT A US-SPONSORED EXHIBITION COULD BE HELD IN THE PEOPLE'S CLUB, WITH THE ACTIVE COOPERATION OF THE ZANZIBAR GOVERNMENT; THAT AN AMERICAN LECTURER, WHOSE ROLE

SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS VIEWED WITH SUSPICION, WAS ALLOWED TO SPEAK TO THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY AT THE TEACHER'S COLLEG?; T-5 ZANZIBARIS FELT FREE TO ATTEND A US-SPONSORED EVENT (ALBEIT AN OBVIOUSLY GOVERNMENT-SANCTIONED ONE SINCE IT WAS HELD AT THE PEOPLE'S CLUB); ALL POINT TO A VAST IMPROVEMENT IN THE ATMOSPHERE ON ZANZIBAR, THE ATTITUDE OF THE ZANZIXAR GOVERNMENT TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES AND IN ZANZIBAR-US RELATIONS. SUCH AN EVENT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE A FEW YEARS AGO. THE FACT THAE ST WAS POSSIBLE TO HOLD IT SUCCESSFULLY AT THIS TIME POINTS TO THE EFFICACY OF THE CONTINUOUS EFFORTS BY AMERICAN OFFICALS AT THIS POST TO ENCOURAGE A MORE BALANCED

WORLD VIEW BY THE ZANZIBAR GOVERNMENT AND TO THE EFFECTS OF THE
ATTITUDE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION VIS-A-VIS THE THIRD WORLD
AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND THE VISIT OF UN AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG
TO ZANZIBAR IN FEBRUARY 1977. THERE ARE STILL PERSONS IN THE
GOVERNMENT HOSTILE TO THE UNITED STATES AND MANY PERSONS REMAIN
AFRAID OF THE ONUS IHEY FEEL WOULD BE ATTACHED TO THEM WERE THEY
TO VISIT AN OFFICIAL AMERICAN'S RESIDENCE, BUT THESE PROBLEMS
ARE LESS SIGNIFICANT THAN PREVIOUSLY. ALL IS NOT A BED OF
ROSES IN ZANZIBAR NOW, AND MUCH MORE CAN BE DONE; BUT THE
PROGRESS TO DATE IS GOOD.
SHIPPY

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